

Muinane language

Muinane is an indigenous American language spoken in Colombia.

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| Muinane | |
| <i>Muìnánž</i> | |
| Native to | Colombia |
| Region | Puerto Santander, Amazonas; between Caquetá River and Yari River in Caquetá Department |
| Ethnicity | 550 (2007) ^[1] |
| Native speakers | 150 (2007) ^[1] |
| Language family | <p>?Bora–Witoto</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Boran ▪ Muinane |
| Language codes | |
| ISO 639-3 | bmr |
| Glottolog | <p>muin1242 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/muin1242)^[2]</p> |

Classification

Muinane belongs to the Boran language family, along with Bora.

Geographic distribution

Muinane is spoken by 150 people in Colombia along the Upper Cahuinarí river in the Department of Amazonas. There may be some speakers in Peru.

Phonology

Consonants

Muinane consonant phonemes

| | <u>Bilabial</u> | <u>Alveolar</u> | <u>Postalveolar/ Palatal</u> | <u>Velar</u> | <u>Glottal</u> |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| <u>Nasal</u> | m | n | n̪ | | |
| <u>Plosive</u> | p b | t d | t̪ d̪ | k g | ? |
| <u>Affricate</u> | | | tʃ dʒ | | |
| <u>Fricative</u> | ɸ β | s | ʃ j | x | |
| <u>Trill</u> | | r | r̪ | | |

- Voiceless stops and affricates contrast with their geminate counterparts: t: tʃ: tʃ: k:.

Vowels

Muinane vowel phonemes

| | Front | Central | Back |
|------|-------|---------|------|
| High | i | ɨ | u |
| Low | ɛ | a | o |

Tone

There are two tones in Muinane: high and low.

Grammar

Word order in Muinane is generally SOV. Case marking is nominative–accusative.

Writing System

Muinane is written using a Latin alphabet. A chart of symbols with the sounds they represent is as follows:

| Latin | IPA | Latin | IPA | Latin | IPA | Latin | IPA | Latin | IPA | Latin | IPA |
|-------|------|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|------|-------|-----|-------|-----|
| a | /a/ | b | /b/ | c | /k/ | ch | /tʃ/ | d | /d/ | e | /e/ |
| f | /ɸ/ | g | /g/ | h | /χ/ | i | /i/ | ɨ | /ɨ/ | j | /x/ |
| ll | /dʒ/ | m | /m/ | n | /n/ | ñ | /ɲ/ | o | /o/ | p | /p/ |
| q | /k/ | r | /r/ | s | /s/ | sh | /ʃ/ | t | /t/ | u | /u/ |
| v | /β/ | y | /j/ | | | | | | | | |

- Palatalized consonants are written using the unpalatalized forms plus y: ty /tʃ/, dy /dʒ/, ry /rχ/. For the purposes of alphabetization, these are considered sequences of letters.
- Tone is not generally indicated in writing. When it is shown, it is indicated by an acute accent over the vowel: á, é, í, ɨ, ó, ú.
- The Muinane writing system is based on Spanish orthography. For that reason, the sound /k/ is written as **c** before a, ɨ, o, and u and as **qu** before e and i. Likewise, the sound /g/ is written as **gu** before e and i, and **g** elsewhere.

References

1. Muinane (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/bmr/>) at Ethnologue (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Muinane" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/muin1242>). Glottolog 3.0. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

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